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Title: Need to provide adequate financial and infrastructural assistance to the rose growers of Hosur in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu and set up a Rose Export Processing Zone in the region.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (KRISHNAGIRI): Hosur in Krishnagiri District in Tamil Nadu is a major industrial town. It is located about 250 kms. away from Chennai. It's climate is perfect for rose farming with more than 50,000 acres of land being used for cultivation to meet *the* demands. As a result of this, floriculture and rose business is witnessing a mega boom. Here one-hectare farm can grow as many as 70,000 rose plants. Different varieties of roses grown here are high in demand throughout the year particularly for the Valentine's Day. Taj Mahal - a special type of rose - is being exported to foreign countries. Rose stems such as flower petals constitute around one-fourth of the country's floriculture exports. During season, the flowers are mainly exported to Middle East, Far East and European countries as well as Australia, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia. The current export turnover is around Rs. 100 crore and it is likely to increase in the coming years.

However, Hosur is not having proper infrastructure facilities and the farmers are facing lot of difficulties to export the flowers to Bangalore, Chennai and from there to the countries abroad. Moreover, the incentive to the farmers is not adequate.

Keeping in view of the huge prospects of rose culture and rose exports, I urge upon the Union Government to provide adequate financial and other assistance to the farmers and exporters engaged in the production and export of rose and also to set up Rose Export Processing Zone at Hosur in Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu.